SAO 441 (Rev. 8/01) Third Party Summons in a Civil Action

Unitei	O STATES DISTI	RICT COURT
Southern	District of	New York
PLAINTIFF Selim Zherka,		THIRD PARTY SUMMONS IN A
V. DEFENDANT AND THIRD PARTY PLAINTIFF		CIVIL ACTION
Philip Amicone,	Case Nur	mber: 08 Civ. 2062 (CLB)(GAY)
V. THIRD PARTY DEFENDANT  The Guardian News, Inc. and Richard Bla	assberg.	DEGEIVED MAY 12 2008
2 William Street 2 William	Blassberg n Street lains, NY 10601	LUSDC-WP-SDNY
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONE	ED and required to serve o	n · · ·
PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)	   DEFENDA   (name and ac	NT AND THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY
Jonathan Lovett, Esq. Lovettt & Gould, LLP 222 Bloomingdale Road White Plains, New York 10605 (914) 428-8401	DelBello One Nor	Plunkett, Esq. Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP th Lexington Avenue ains, New York 10601 1-0200
against you for the relief demanded in the the of the complaint of the plaintiff. You have the this is a case within Rule 9(h) Federal Rules against you in favor of the original plaintiff. Procedure, in which situation you are required	e of the day of service. If y ird-party complaint. Ther ne option of answering or nof Civil Procedure, and (2 f under the circumstances at to make your defenses, if ou serve on the parties to the	summons, within
J. MICHAEL McMAHON,		5-12.08
CLERK Q . A D	DATE	

# Case 7:08-cv-02062-CS-MDF

Document 19 Filed 05/12/2008 Page 2 of 11

SAO 441 (Rev. 8/01) Third Party Summons in a Civil Action

	RETURN	N OF SERVICE
Service of the Summons	and complaint was made by me <sup>(1)</sup>	DATE
NAME OF SERVER		TITLE
Check one box below to ind	icate appropriate method of servic	ce
	oon the third-party defendant. Place	
☐ Left copies thereof a discretion then residi	t the third-party defendant's dwelling therein.	ng house or usual place of abode with a person of suitable age and
Name of person with	whom the summons and complaint	: were left:
☐ Returned unexecuted	:	
☐ Other (specify):		
,	STATEMENT	OF SERVICE FEES
TRAVEL	SERVICES	TOTAL \$0.00
	DECLARATI	TON OF SERVER
Executed on	Date Signature of Serv	יטפי
	Date Signature of Serv	ver
	Address of Server	21*
·		

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SELIM ZHERKA,

Plaintiff,

-against-

MICHAEL F. BOGDANOS, individually, MICHAEL R. EDELMAN, a/k/a "THE CONSULTANT", individually, PHILIP AMICONE, individually and in his capacity as Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, DAVID "DOE" a/k/a/ "ETHAN EDWARDS", individually, EDMOND ROE a/k/a "MOB BUSTER", individually, JOHN POE, individually, WILLIAM ROE, individually, and JANET DOE, individually,

Defendants.

PHILIP AMICONE,

Third-Party Plaintiff,

-against-

THE GUARDIAN NEWS, INC. and RICHARD BLASSBERG,

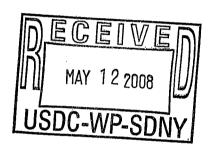
Third-Party Defendants.

ECF Case

08 Civ. 2062 (CLB)(GAY)

# THIRD PARTY COMPLAINT

Jury Trial Demanded



Third-Party Plaintiff Philip Amicone ("Amicone"), by and through his attorneys DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP, as and for his Third-Party Complaint against The Guardian News, Inc. ("Guardian News") and Richard Blassberg ("Blassberg"), alleges as follows:

## Nature of the Case

1. Amicone brings this third-party action against Guardian News and Blassberg to recover damages incurred as a direct result of, *inter alia*, certain false and defamatory statements made by Guardian News and Blassberg.

### The Parties

- 2. Amicone is, and at all relevant times was, an individual residing in the State of New York and the duly elected Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York.
- 3. Upon information and belief, Guardian News is, and at all relevant times was, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York with a principal place of business located at 2 William Street, White Plains, New York 10601. Guardian News is the publisher of <u>The Westchester Guardian</u>, a weekly periodical which purports to "cover news and events relevant to residents and businesses all over Westchester County."
- 4. Upon information and belief, Blassberg is, and at all relevant times was, an individual residing in the State of New York. Blassberg is also Editor-in-Chief of <u>The</u> Westchester Guardian.

### Jurisdiction and Venue

- 5. Jurisdiction is vested in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) in that the claims asserted in the third-party action are so related to claims in the action within which original jurisdiction exists such that said claims form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.
- 6. This Court has jurisdiction over Guardian News because Guardian News: (i) is licensed to do business in the State of New York; (ii) transacts business in the State of New

York; (iii) expressly consented to jurisdiction in the State of New York; and (iv) is otherwise subject to jurisdiction in the State of New York pursuant to CPLR 301 and 302.

- 7. This Court has jurisdiction over Blassberg because Blassberg: (i) resides in the State of New York; (ii) expressly consented to jurisdiction in the State of New York; and (iii) is otherwise subject to jurisdiction in the State of New York pursuant to CPLR 301 and 302.
- 8. Venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Guardian News and Blassberg expressly consented to venue in this judicial district and because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims herein have occurred in this judicial district

# As and for a First Cause of Action (Libel)

- 9. On November 1, 2007, Guardian News and Blassberg published an article in <u>The Westchester Guardian</u> regarding Amicone, entitled "It's Still A Tale of Two Cities...Seriously In Need of Change." A true and correct copy of this article is annexed hereto as Exhibit A.
- 10. The November 1, 2007 edition of <u>The Westchester Guardian</u> provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

### Consider:

People now realize the Phil Amicone is a real tyrant, an oppressive politician who cannot accept criticism.

He is no friend of the City's public employees. He called Yonkers teachers "terrorists" for picketing for higher wages. He refused new police and fire department contracts for 2 ½ years.

He is a huge hypocrite. Pretending to be "holier than thou", <u>he actually frequents strip clubs</u>; even had a "lap dance" from a girl by the name of Sassy.

It's time for honesty and integrity; it's time for Dennis Robertson.

Ex. A (emphasis added).

- 11. Guardian News and Blassberg knew that certain statements published in the November 1, 2007 edition of The Westchester Guardian were false and defamatory.
- 12. Guardian News and Blassberg published these statements with actual malice (i.e., despite knowing that these statements were false and/or in reckless disregard for the truth concerning these statements).
- 13. Guardian News and Blassberg acted in a grossly irresponsible manner without due consideration for the standards of information gathering and dissemination ordinarily followed by responsible parties.
- 14. The false statements made by Guardian News and Blassberg in the November 1, 2007 edition of <u>The Westchester Guardian</u> constitute libel.
- 15. As a direct and proximate result of the actions described herein, Amicone has suffered special damages in the form of damage to his personal, professional, occupational and political reputation.
  - 16. The amount of special damages incurred by Amicone will be proven at trial.

# As and for a Second Cause of Action (Libel Per Se)

- 17. Amicone repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs
  1 through 16 above with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.
- 18. Guardian News and Blassberg knew, or should have known, that certain statements published in the November 1, 2007 edition of <u>The Westchester Guardian</u> were false and defamatory.
- 19. Guardian News and Blassberg published these statements with the intent to disparage and damage Amicone's personal, professional, occupational and political reputation.

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- 20. The false statements published by Guardian News and Blassberg in the November 1, 2007 edition of The Westchester Guardian constitute libel *pe se*.
- 21. As a direct and proximate result of the actions described herein, Amicone has suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

WHEREFORE, Amicone prays for relief as follows:

- (i) On the First Cause of Action, for damages against Guardian News and Blassberg in an amount to be determined at trial;
- (ii) On the Second Cause of Action, for damages against Guardian News and Blassberg in an amount to be proven at trial; and
  - (iii) For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: White Plains, New York May 12, 2008

DELBELLO DONNELLAN WEINGARTEN WISE & WIEDERKEHR, LLP

By:

Kevin J. Plunkett (KP 3049)

Brian T. Belowich (BB 6910)

Matthews C. Clifford (MC 112)

Matthew S. Clifford (MC 1134)

1 North Lexington Avenue

White Plains, New York 10601

(914) 681-0200

Attorneys for Defendant/Third-Party Plaintiff

Philip Amicone

# **EXHIBIT A**

THE



VOL. II NO. XIII

Westchester's Most Influential Weekly

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2007

# The Good:







and



See... The Advocate, p.5





Ernest Davis

United States Mistrict Court UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# Sandy Annabi Strongly Endorses Dennis Robertson

Tells District Two Constituents "If We Elect Dennis As Our Next Mayor We Will Finally Get Our Fair Share From The City of Yonkers."

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

For the past several years, as your City Council Representative, I have steadfastly fought for your best interests. That is why I am writing to you now, to urge you to go to the polls on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, and vote for Dennis Robertson for Mayor of Yonkers.

With Dennis Robertson as our Mayor, we, the residents of District Two, will finally get the level of service from the City of Yonkers we have long deserved. Dennis has demonstrated by his conduct on the City Council, that he has the best interests of the residents of Southwest Yonkers at heart.

Dennis Robertson and I have a great working relationship and share the same views on many issues that effect the quality of life of our residents. Dennis Robertson is hardworking and dedicated. He listens and, most importantly, he will help me to help you. This is a very important election for all of Yonkers, but most important for us, the People of District Two. If we elect Dennis as our next Mayor, we will finally get our fair share from the City of Yonkers.

Best regards,



Yonkers City Council Member Sandy Annabi

An Election Day Greeting Card for Yonkers and Mount Vernon Voters.. COMMUNITY CALENDAR Design Inspirations: The Master Bedroom: Go From Outdated To Outrageous .... HOROSCOPE: Shimmering Stars, Nov. 1 - 7 .... IN OUR OPINION: The Old Grey Lady Has Become Irrelevant ..... Living Latino In Westchester: OUR READERS RESPOND: ..... TAKING JUDICIAL NOTICE: Judge William H. Robertson, Part II: The Judge Vs. The Machine ...... THE COURT REPORT: What Injustice One Judge Signs Off On Let No Other Set Aside.. THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: Nov. 1 - 7



White Plains, NY 10601

Westeliester's Wost Influential Weekly

Publishere Guardlan News Corp. Sam Zherka, President

Editor-in-Chiefi Richard Blasaberg

🐫 Graphic Designer/Newspaper & Advartising Design John Tufts

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THE WESTCHESTER GUARDIAN



THURSDAY; NOVEMBER 1, 2007

-PACE

# Inalacevorence

# It's Still A Tale Of Two Cities... Seriously In Need of Change!



# Consider:

Ernie Davis is a very tired act.
The truth is, he is very frightened to give up control for fear that he will be more vulnerable to criminal apprehension.

Ernie has long ago stopped caring about what is best for the families of Mount Vernon; and, now, his poor judgment, his self-serving conduct, and his broken promises, have caught up with him.

Things have grown so bad in many areas of the city, crime so rampant, taxes so high, the quality of life so desperate, that some families have moved back to the Bronx.

It is time for positive change; it's time for Clinton Young.

# Consider:

People now realize that Phil Amicone is a real tyrant, an oppressive politician who cannot accept criticism.

He is no friend of the city's public employees. He called Yonkers teachers "terrorists" for picketing for higher wages. He refused new police and fire department contracts for 2 ½ years.

He is a huge hypocrite. Pretending to be "holier than thou", he actually frequents strip clubs; even had a "lap dance" from a girl by the name of Sassy.

It's time for honesty and integrity; it's time for Dennis Robertson.



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